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## **Community Health budget voted out of committee**

**LANSING** – Under the new Department of Community Health budget proposal, several services will be reinstated that last year were vetoed by the governor, including Medicaid coverage for adult dental services, Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Twp., announced.

Dental care is an important part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Preventive dental care has been demonstrated to be a factor in the deterrence of chronic illnesses and immune system dysfunction, George said.

The DCH accounts for nearly 30 percent of the state's general fund budget and covers such services as Medicaid, mental health services, substance abuse and much more. Maintaining health care coverage and essential health care services for children and for Michigan's most vulnerable citizens, the elderly and disabled, is a major concern.

"I am aware of many individuals who are now suffering for lack of dental care," said George, the only physician in the Senate. "We have been cutting off our noses to spite our faces. The budget certainly needed to be cut, but if people on Medicaid aren't provided with adequate preventive dental care then they end up in the emergency room with oral infections. That costs us even more."

The bill now goes to the full Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration.

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